FASHION INTERNATIONAL
NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FASHION WORLD
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REVIEWED:

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SWIMWEAR '87: FUN IN THE SUN

Designers have hit the beach this year with an attitude that spells F U N ! Colors, fabrics, shapes and accessories are bright and bold with no holding back. New and innovative designs appear as well as old favorites revamped. Prints range from nautical stripes to wacky polka dots; or savage jungle and animal motifs to dazzling sequined and lurex blends. It's up to the consumer and everything looks good!

THE ATHLETE: Sporty tanks appeared with plunging necklines and "X", "T" or most often the "bicycle" back. A modified racing suit from KEIKO in royal blue with bright green piping is cut to a low square in the back and just as low on the sides. ADRIENNE VITTADINI presents colorful maillots in swirls, polka dots, sea and Memphis prints. ANNE COLE shows something different with her black turtleneck halter in cotton and Lycra. A popular print in the COLE collection was the use of the "fleur de lis" in blue, red and white.

THE MARILYN SYNDROME: Hooray for Hollywood-- the full-figured girl is back in style! Lots of flirty skirts and bows in shiny fabrics and GOTTEX couldn't do it better with a black cire, draped tunic pinched in front and crossed in back. DONNA KARAN previewed a diaper-wrap maillot with sweetheart neckline in black cotton and Lycra spandex. For a night look, GOTTEX presents a self-belted, sequined deep "V" plunge halter.

YOU TARZAN...and everybody wants to be Jane. The animals were out full force this year and every designer has a favorite. CATALINA imprints a multicolor tiger on a white cotton and Lycra spandex tank. VIEWPOINT prefers an eye-catching python print on black in a surplice, one-piece. GOTTEX features a truly exotic blend: a zebra stripe interspersed with leopard skins and multi-colored strings of "jewels."

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY BIKINI!

Forty years old and this little two-piece is stronger than ever-- no strings attached. In fact, strings are barely seen at all this season. The bandeau dominates the collections, generally paired with skin-tight tube bottoms.

Boldly striped Gidget suits are a hit, especially with ADRIENNE VITTADINI in peppermint and white nylon and Lycra. LA BLANCA features teeny bikinis in solid colors with bright, satiny hip sashes and bras.

Also popular is the athletic cropped tank, cut just above the navel and most often seen with bicycle pant bottoms. BARELY LEGAL gives it a different twist with a blue and white wrestler over white tank and leggings, all in cotton and Lycra spandex. NORMA KAMALI presents mannish, high-waisted briefs with matching black, cropped "T" in cotton and Lycra for OMO.

An innovative shape this year is the "unikini" or "tank-ini", a one-piece that looks like a two-piece, or a two piece that's attached-- the most important feature is the exposed navel. LA BLANCA uses a popular "suspender look" in a brightly colored cropped top that buttons into darker bikini bottoms. O.P. by OCEAN PACIFIC puts together a multicolored tank top with black side-tie bottoms.

BEACH WRAP

Cardigans and big shirts are the most popular cover-ups this season, especially for the athletic look. VIEWPOINT pairs a crop top bikini with a matching cardigan sweater, all in Hampton stripe: bright colors with tan and white. The jungle prints call for sexy sarongs and loose scarves in the same print. Long, French terry cloth robes remain the classic cover-up. ANNE COLE favors these, white and hooded.

With the effect of "Tromp l'Oeil", maillots feature printed belts and chains, especially the "Chanel" look in waist chains. Real zippers on denim suits add a twist to the COLE collection. Two-piece swim caps, detachable braids, head-scarves, big straw hats, earrings, bracelets and bangels, and of course those "cheap" sunglasses-- just a few of the new accessories for Swimwear '87.

A NEW COLORING BOOK

SHOWING YOUR COLORS: A Designer's Guide to Coordinating Your Wardrobe is a comprehensive fashion consulting book by Jeanne Allen, the designer of JEANNE-MARC fashions. Sportswear is the basis of American style and Allen explains that the consumer has now become the coordinator.

The focus is on color, its various shades and numerous combinations. Allen presents 53 colors, grouped according to tone and brightness; and brilliant ink line drawings suggest 1380 various combinations. A section at the end offers 128 more combinations that show how the impact of an outfit will change as colors are shifted.

Providing a quick scan at numerous combinations, this book considers several contemporary as well as unorthodox color possibilities. And the color glossary certainly comes in handy when trying to name that indescribable shade-- like egg yolk yellow. (Chronicle Books, San Francisco, CA, $9.95).

UOMOMODA: SPRING/SUMMER '87

The eighteenth edition of UOMOMODA presented menswear collections of nearly 80 Italian fashion houses in New York and Los Angeles. The theme for Spring/Summer '87 is "symbol of elegance"---targeting the man who dresses discreetly but with a tendency towards the avant-garde, and the adaptability to change his image to any occasion.

Fabrics are fluid and supple with a background weave for more detail. Lots of lightweight sweaters in cotton and cotton/silk blends, while linen prevails in pants and jackets.

Colors are a mix of neutrals with brights; blues dominating the latter from sky to indigo and often teamed with sand tones or mineral greys like ash or slate. White is the natural coordinator.

Knits, as an integral part of today's wardrobe, steal the show with their diversity in design and style. Without compromise of color, patterns or methods, today's designers employ complicated intarsia motifs, cable and bark effects, relief jacquard, abstract rhombus patterns and mock patchwork. Electronic methods have found their place in these post-modern designs.

NANI BON: Geometrically inspired by Ganguin and Kandinsky, this collection has a unique futuristic style with a textural influence from Africa and the Orient. Blue is most often used with the addition of unexpected contrasting tones.

FRANCO ZICHE: A stong ethnic influence using ancient Kilim and Navajo carpets and pre-Colombian ceramics as pattern themes. Polos are back but with new technology using jacquard for jersey rather than stripes. Moody colors prevail such as sea blue, pearl grey, violet and turquoise.

TORTUE BY MAURIZIO BALDASSARI: Polos predominate, cut full and flowing, with mouline patterns, mock melange and jaspe. Colors are strong and deep in vegetable and terracotta tones or faded and iced in by-products of white.

PITTI/SPIRITO: Inspired by the sea, PITTI presents boat necks with stripes and star insets---polos and tees in linen, cotton crepe and chine terry. SPIRITO'S look is full of contrasts. An "optical theme" is featured where black and white appear on large grounds of color, emphasized by embroidery and handknitted inserts.

BALENCIAGA AT F.I.T.

A retrospective of the creations of the late Cristobal Balenciaga will open in The Galleries at the Fashion Institute of Technology with an invitational gala on Monday, Sept. 22. Often called the "Couturier of couturiers", Balenciaga was said to have "ruled Paris" from 1937 to 1969.

The exhibition follows the Musee Historique des Tissus' "Hommage to Balenciaga" in France last fall-- the first major retrospective of Balenciaga's since Diana Vreeland's eulogy to the designer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute in 1973.

130 Balenciaga originals will be on display, from daytime to evening wear. The exhibition will be open to the public from September 23 through December 6--Tuesday, 10 to 9; Wednesday through Saturday, 10 to 5. Admission is free.

THE COLOR STORY: FALL/WINTER '87

Fall/Winter '87 presents a wider variety of light colors. Neutrals are integral to the color story, while heathered yarns are also gaining in importance. Flannel is the major cloth, especially when heathered, and nubby tweeds have been replaced by fine Harris tweeds, spaced dye yarns and soft boucles. Fabrics are generally lighter in weight.

The Clean Pales...in blouses, jackets, brushed knits and active-wear: lemon, burnt apricot, aqua tint, pink, lilac, soft orange and sky blue.

Victorian...basic colors in outerwear, dresses and suits: nougat, burnt orange, lichen, dregs of wine, lavender, burnt coral, medium blue.

Edwardians...chartreuse, vicuna, mallard blue, cranberry, dusty purple, caramel, RAF blue; these are the anchor shades for tonal groups in all categories.

Standards...for activewear: kelly green, orange, bright blue, cherry red, grape, taxi yellow, heather grey.

Urban Darks...traditionals for sportswear and separates: forest green, paprika, sapphire blue, cinnamon brown, coffee bean, wisteria, cream.

Accents...both dark and bright, used mainly as accents but also work well together: mulberry, myrtle green, midnight navy, dark chocolate, hot pink, citrus yellow, aqua, bright lilac.

COATS FOR FALL

This season's coats range from three-quarter jackets to full-blown greatcoats, with the longer ones sweeping the runways. As designers continue to show ankle-length skirts, outerwear follows suit. Princess silhouettes are popping up again with a flattering fit and flare such as the gold-buttoned, navy wool with an overlap double-breasted collar by WACS WORKS ($190). Fur trim is also a favorite, as in the ILIE WACS' collection, trimming a tangerine red double-princess with black Persian lamb ($350).

Cape-like coats are prevalent and BILL BLASS presents a swirling double-breasted, coachman wool in jade with a full-swing back ($200).

Solids in eye-catching hues like fuchsia and royal-- GEOFFREY BEENE FOR GALLANT features a seasonless, unlined 3/4 jacket in creme or black wool, to be worn by itself or as part of an ensemble ($195). PERRY ELLIS PORTFOLIO presents a broad-shouldered wrap coat in red, black or white with padded shoulders and dolman sleeves (155).

Big wraps are big accessories, with or without the coat. DONNA KARAN shows a charcoal merino wool oblong draped over a black knit turtleneck and matching skirt while RALPH LAUREN favors a woven camel hair cape wrap.

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